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Air Priority

PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : AnConGen, Istanbul, Turkey
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.
REF : ConGen Despatch 155, September 8, 1952

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DESP. NO.

September 9, 1952
DATE

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SUBJECT: CODEL Visit on August 19 - 21, 1952, to Istanbul of Sub-Committee on Escapees and Over-population of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary -- Supplementary Despatch

There is set out below an expansion of certain of the substantive points made in the Consulate General's Despatch under reference as it is believed that they may be of somewhat greater general interest than the whole report.

With regard to the dislike of the Sub-Committee to the restricted aid given the escapees by Turkey, it might be of interest to the Department to learn that it was Mr. Richard Arens who raised the question as to the aid contributed by the Turkish Government for the escapees. He was informed that the Turkish Government does not aid these persons directly but that the Turkish Red Crescent (comparable to the American Red Cross) has been helping them and is largely financing the farm camp. Mr. Arens also demanded to know why a political approach was not made to the Turkish Government in order to avoid the necessity for American money and agencies being used in Turkey to look after some six hundred people. He was informed by the Ambassador that the program of aid to the escapees was the considered policy of the President and that funds have been appropriated by the Congress. Mr. Arens immediately retorted that the program had not received congressional approval and that appropriations had not been made for this specific end.

At this point the question of the share of Red Crescent funds being contributed by the Turkish Government was raised. It was not possible for those present to answer it and it was to be referred to Dr. Wilbrandt, but the Sub-Committee adjourned the meeting without returning to the matter.

Senator Smith intervened and took the view that the Turks should be required to maintain a respect for international law and that they should aid properly the escapees within their gates. Senator Smith said he had a good opinion of the Turkish contribution to its own defense and to NATO and that aid given to Turkey was well spent.

When it was suggested to Senator Smith that the Turks in arguing against a large aid on their part for the escapees would probably say that they are carrying one of the heaviest military burdens in Europe, Senator Wiley responded that Turkey was not poor when it was a question of the money she was receiving from the United States. At this point Senator Wiley inquired as to what is

being

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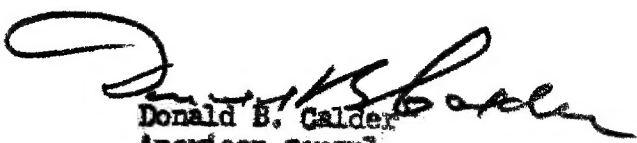
being done in Turkey to implement the appropriation of \$100,000,000 (Kirsten Amendment) intended to be expended by MSA in the Iron Curtain countries in order to raise discord and discontent. Senator Wiley also said that this fund was to be used for forming military units to this end.

The best informed officer at the Consulate General replied to the Senator that it was impossible for him to answer in the field to such a question and that it would be necessary for it to be answered through liaison channels in Washington. He also added that as far as he knew, local funds do not come from the Kirsten Amendment.

Mr. Arens inquired as to what was being done to utilize the above mentioned funds and it was suggested to him that it might be possible for an answer to be received from General Truscott when the group arrived in Frankfurt.

At one point, Senator Smith suggested that VOA was enticing Iron Curtain country citizens to escape and that we might have thus become obligated to support the escapees who heeded the call. When an attempt was being made to answer this point the Senator was called out of the room and he never returned to the subject.

For the Consul General



Donald B. Calder
American Consul
Control Officer

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